



Embark sale coming up on Saturday

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The City of Colby will sell off equipment and furniture from the failed Embark Health at a sale at 9 a.m. Saturday at the former Embark building, 455 N. Franklin Ave.

The sale includes 24 Dell computers, two server computers, 48 flat-panel computer monitors, four printers, 27 phones, three projectors, 31 office chairs and more. Prices range from \$1 on extension cords to \$1,560 for a Dell Power-

Edge server. A full list is available at www.cityofcolby.com.

Anyone interested can take a look at the items from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday at the former Embark building.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the items are not up for auction; they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. All prices are final, she said, because the city had to get approval on them from the Kansas Department of Commerce. Purchases must be paid for in cash or by credit card.

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Eagle's team wins Hugoton tourney

The Colby High debate team won the last tournament of the regular season Saturday at Hugoton High School.

The team took first in sweepstakes — the combined score of the top three two-man teams — with a win-loss record of 12 and 3.

In the Open Division, Madison Gawith and Hannah Matchell had four wins and a loss to finish third. Colton Rundel and Ian Koerperich finished just shy of the medals with three wins and two losses.

In the Novice Division, Maura Hansen and Andrea Barton won first with five wins.

The next action will be State Two-Speaker Debate on Jan. 14 and 15 at Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park. Competing will be juniors Michael Tubbs and Christina Ostmeyer, and Gawith and Matchell; sophomores Cameron McLaughlin and Tomi Miller; and freshmen Rundel and Koerperich.

Schools, college hold music concerts

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'Tis the season for holiday concerts.

The Colby Community College choir concert will begin at 7:30 Tuesday in the Cultural Arts Center on campus. The concert will start with the Sunflower Singers honor choir singing carols and pop songs. A barbershop quartet will sing a few numbers and the program will finish with the concert choir singing four songs including "Still the Holiest Night."

The Golden Plains Elementary School Christmas program will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the elemen-

tary building in Selden.

The Heartland Christian School choir will perform its repertoire of Christmas music at a concert at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school gym.

Colby Grade School first graders will perform a musical "December Around the Clock," at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday in the grade school auditorium.

The Colby Middle and High School concert has been moved to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, in the high school auditorium. The concert was originally scheduled for tonight, but has been moved to avoid a conflict with the scholar's

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Snowman, kids turn out for parade

Members and adult leaders from the Colby Comets 4-H club (above) tried to keep warm on their float in the Colby Light Parade on Sunday. The parade also featured Andrew Starns of Colby Ag Center (right) as the Abominable Snowman riding a four-wheeler and Thomas County emergency medical technicians (below) reading Christmas stories. This year's winning entries were: Colby Ag Center, first place, and Steve Molstad, second place, in the best lit vehicle category; Cub Scout Pack 140, first, and the American Legion Riders, second, for best organization; Hatchett Ranch, first, and Colby Implement, second, for best business; Nicole's School of Dance, first, and Ashley's Dance Center, second, for youth best of show; and Trinity Lutheran Church and Heartland Christian School for best religious.



Investigators look into racial profiling task force's spending

TOPEKA (AP) — State and federal investigators are looking into spending by a Kansas racial profiling task force and two sister committees that spent tens of thousands of dollars on trips, concert tickets and no-bid contracts for a website that never went online.

The Wichita Eagle reported Sunday that it reviewed expenses of the Governor's Task Force on Racial Profiling, the Kansas African American Affairs Commission and the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission.

Among its findings was that officials with those groups spent \$10,000 on a town hall meeting featuring \$1,400 in steak dinners, \$3,200 in refreshments and a four-piece band. The newspaper also found that two companies were paid more than \$36,000 for work on a website that never went online, and speaking fees of up to \$750 an hour to address small groups.

Much of the questionable spending was in 2009.

Gov. Mark Parkinson acknowledged

that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were looking into whether the groups misused public funds.

"We became aware of some possible spending problems that are very similar to what you've just outlined and once we became aware of those, we did an internal investigation to verify that there was a problem," Parkinson told The Eagle. "We convinced ourselves that there was sufficient likelihood of a problem, that it was serious.

"We turned everything that we had on the matter over to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and it is my understanding that it is under investigation right now."

According to the records, three state employees arranged and/or approved almost all of the expenditures.

Much of the money came from a \$643,000 federal transportation grant given to the state in 2007 to reduce racial profiling.

The state made payments to two vendors, Anthony Morris of Morris Media

and Web Design, and Anthony Pollock of Polar Media. Morris did not respond to phone messages or a business card left at his door, while Pollock is deployed on military duty in Kuwait and couldn't be reached for comment.

The two have been paid a total of \$13,150 to speak at 10 meetings for small groups. According to fliers for those meetings, each ran about two hours and records show Morris and Pollock were

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Briefly

Selden school plans soup supper

Golden Plains Elementary School in Selden will have a soup supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Main Street. The menu includes homemade chicken-noodle soup, chili and desserts. Proceeds will go to the playground and the OWLS project. For information, call Judy Rogers at (785) 386-4582.

Scripture sessions set for shop

The Thomas County Ministerial Association plans to hold its December Soup and Scripture sessions from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at Smoffee's in downtown Colby instead of at a church. Owner Shawn Larson will have a soup lunch for \$5. The theme is "Characters at the Stable." Call Pastor Car-

ol Rahn at 443-2636 for information.

Coalition to meet for lunch

The Thomas County Coalition, a group that works to reduce alcohol and drug use, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at El Dos de Oros restaurant in the Quality Inn. The group will discuss ideas for new projects and Jarrod Spencer will share the results of the "change tool" survey conducted in Thomas County. For information, call Mindy Ketchum at the Regional Prevention Center, 460-8177.

Library to close this week

The Pioneer Memorial Library will close from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday for staff training. The library will be open

from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday and regular hours Sunday. For information, call 460-4470.

Volunteer basket-fillers needed

Genesis-Thomas County is in need of volunteers to fill Christmas food baskets at 7 p.m. Friday at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The baskets will be distributed to eligible families at 9 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H building. For information, call 460-7930.

Potluck planned for Dec. 14

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the First Pres-

byterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

Hill City artist featured at museum

Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chalfant are on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through the end of December. His sculptures and paintings have been shown in regional and national shows. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museum@st-tel.net.

